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BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

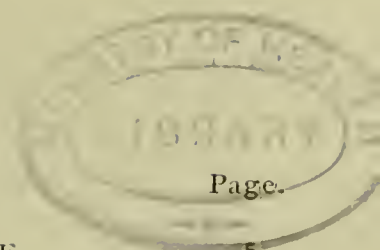
FOR THE YEAR

1925.



Thomas Robson, Printer, Percy Street, Blyth.

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BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Alderman NEALE.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor EMMERSON.

The MAYOR.	Councillor HARDY.
Alderman CARR.	Councillor HYDE.
Alderman GOULDING.	Councillor MATHER.
Alderman KELLY.	Councillor MURDY.
Councillor CROZIER.	Councillor REAY.
Councillor DONNACHIE.	Councillor ROBSON.
Councillor GOWENS.	Councillor WALKER.
Councillor HANDLEY.	Councillor WIGLESWORTH.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Mrs. EMMERSON.

Vice-Chairman—Alderman NEALE.

The MAYOR.	Councillor MATHER.
Alderman GOULDING.	Councillor MURDY.
Councillor CROZIER.	Councillor REAY.
Councillor DONNACHIE.	Councillor ROBSON.
Councillor EMMERSON.	Councillor WIGLESWORTH.
Councillor GOWENS.	The MAYORESS.
Councillor HANDLEY.	Mrs. COLPITTS.
Councillor HARDY.	Miss WILLIAMS.

Office of Health Department—WELLINGTON HOUSE, BLYTH.

WELLINGTON HOUSE,

BLYTH,

April, 1926.

To Alderman Neale (Chairman),
and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Health Department for the year 1925.

Although the year has been one of almost unprecedented unemployment in the annals of Blyth, the general health of the community has been satisfactory. The Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates comparing favourably with those of the country generally.

Much relief of hardship has been afforded by the Unemployment Benefit, Poor Law, and Milk Foods for necessitous nursing mothers and infants, and there has been no starvation, food generally being very plain but wholesome, as is evidenced by the medical inspection of the school children, showing little or no deterioration in their weight.

The amount of Poor Law Relief granted in 1925 was £12,773.

During the past five years there has been no serious epidemics of sickness. We have the usual yearly outbreak of Influenza, but nothing serious in the shape of Infectious Diseases.

Considering that Small Pox has been prevalent in all the areas round Blyth for the past 2-3 years. Your Council may consider itself fortunate that the borough has been lucky enough to have had only 22 cases of the disease reported during these years.

Steady progress has been made with the conversion of the privy ashpit type of sanitary convenience to the water carriage system during the past four years.

Since the granting of the Charter of Incorporation in 1922 under the conditions of which your Council agreed to wholly adopt this modern means of sanitary convenience, at the rate of 100 conversions per year, the majority of the conversions have been carried out by the Cowpen and Seaton Delaval Coal Companies and redounds to their credit, private owners of property have responded in small numbers, financial circumstances being probably the main reason for their poor response.

It is essential however that this most important health measure now begun, should be pursued until not a privy ashpit remains and it is for the Council to consider which of the undermentioned schemes, is best suited for the interests and welfare of the borough.

- (i). Continuing the present scheme of 100 conversions per year.
- (ii). The adoption of a scheme under Section 39-42 of the Public Health Amendments Act, 1907.

Housing.—That a shortage of houses still exists in the borough is evidenced by the fact that there are 572 applications for Council Houses.

Overcrowding is very prevalent in the Borough, and is accentuated by subletting almost invariably by tenants already overcrowded themselves, so that there are many families who occupy one room only and are living all together under most adverse conditions.

Further, the greater wear and tear occasioned to property by subletting very adversely affects owners, and renders difficult the keeping of property in adequate repair.

There is need for initiation of schemes to deal with insanitary areas and unfit property, with the concurrent building of houses of a smaller type than the original municipal scheme, so as to meet the requirements of the lower paid artisan.

The measure of progress made in the area during the past five years from a Health and Sanitary point of view is the great improvements carried out at Isabella Colliery and South Newsham by the Cowpen Coal Co., and at South Row, New Delaval, by the Seaton Delaval Coal Co. in the remodelling of the houses—the provision of separate yards with Water Tap—and the installation of the Water carriage system of sanitary convenience to each house. The Isabella Colliery can now be looked on as one of the most sanitary colliery villages in the County. It was the intention of the Seaton Delaval Coal Co. to gradually proceed with the remodelling of all their property at New Delaval, but with the completion of the improvements at South Row, financial circumstances have compelled the Company for the present, to suspend operations in that direction.

With the closing down of the Bebside Colliery, the improvements, sanitary and otherwise, commenced there are now at a complete standstill.

The Council can be congratulated on the greatly improved condition of the main streets in the town, while the majority of the back and side streets are in a satisfactory state of repair.

The inspection of the slaughter houses and the supervision of all premises where food stuffs are manufactured---stored or exposed for sale have the closest attention of your sanitary staff. Every facility been granted by the tradesmen for inspection.

It is gratifying to record an increased attendance of mothers with their babies at the Welfare Centre during the year, and is an indication that the benefits derived from their attendance is appreciated by the mothers.

My thanks are due to the Lady Voluntary Helpers for their assistance and attendance at the Centre.

Requirements of the Borough.

- (1) The provision of more houses.
- (2) A more rapid installation of the Water Carriage System.
- (3) The consideration of the erection of an Up-to-date Hospital for the treatment of Infectious Diseases.
- (4) The consideration of the erection of an Abbatoir, or the enlargement of the present Corporation Slaughter Yard.
- (5) A Motor Ambulance for Infectious Diseases.

I have pleasure in recording my grateful thanks to you, Sir, as Chairman and the Members of the Health Committee for the courtesy during the past year and also to the Staff of the department for their loyal and unfailing assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES M. MacLACHLAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX.

I. General Statistics.

Area (acres)	...	...	4509 acres.
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	31833
Population (estimated 1925)	...	...	34070
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	6846
Number of Families or separate occupiers	...	...	7346
Rateable Value	...	...	£158206
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£576

Social Conditions of the Borough.

The principal industries in the Borough are :—

(a) Coal-mining. (b) Shipbuilding & Repairing.

Unfortunately for the prosperity of the Borough, both trades have been in a most depressed state throughout the year. Notwithstanding the unprecedented unemployment in the Borough with the corresponding decrease in the family income the general health of the borough has been satisfactory. Much relief of hardship, has been afforded by the Unemployment Benefit, Poor Law, and Milk Foods for necessitous mothers and infants.

The population of the borough shows a steady increase for the past five years and the population returns for these years, are :—

1921	...	...	31833
1922	...	...	32630
1923	...	...	32950
1924	...	...	33350
1925	...	...	34070

II. Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1925.

			<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Births	{ Legitimate	...	393	357	750
	{ Illegitimate	...	18	18	36
	Totals	...	<u>411</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>786</u>

Deaths	...	222	...	189	...	411
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

No. of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth	{ from Sepsis	...	1
	{ from other causes	...	3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	49	27	76
Illegitimate	2	2	Total 4

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	5
„ Whooping Cough	...	...	4
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		...	13

(a) **BIRTHS.**

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	...	393	357	750
Illegitimate	....	18	18	36
		<u>411</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>786</u>

The Birth Rate (Registrar General) for the year 1925 is 23·7 per 1000 population.

The percentage of illegitimate births is 4·6 per cent. as compared with 2·9 per cent. in 1924.

The Births in the respective Wards for 1925, are as follows :—

Wards.		Total.
Bebside	...	92
Newsham	...	69
New Delaval	...	48
Croft	...	213
Waterloo	...	128
Plessey	...	135
Ridley	...	117
Total		802

Registrar General's corrected number 786.

Comparison of Birth Rates with Rates for the County generally.

	Per 1000 Population.
England and Wales ...	18·3
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)...	18·8
157 Smaller Towns (20—50,000 pop.)	18·3
London ...	18
Blyth ...	23·7

It will be noted that the Birth Rate for Blyth is much above the rates for the County generally.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE
FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.
1925	786	23·7 per 1000 pop.
1924	892	26·74 "
1923	865	26·25 "
1922	784	24 "
1921	916	2·83 "

It will be seen from the Registrar's Returns for the Country, that the birth rate is well above that of the country generally and especially that of towns of similar size to our own.

(b) **DEATHS.**

<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
222	189	411

The Death Rate (Registrar General) is therefore 12·6 per 1000 population as compared with 14 per 1000 population in 1924

Inward Transfers	...	...	48
Outward Transfers	...	...	10

Deaths in Public Institutions.

The number of deaths of Blyth residents which occurred in public institutions during the year was 48, or 11·6 of the total deaths registered for the borough.

Deaths of Residents not registered in the Borough.

Institutions or Districts.	Total Deaths.
Newcastle-on-Tyne V.D. ...	9
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	6
Tynemouth Union Hospital	20
Tynemouth V.D. ...	1
Fleming Memorial Hospital	2
Halstead V.D. Hospital ..	1
Woolley Sanatorium ...	2
Bedlington V.D ...	1
County Mental Hospital, Newminster ...	3
On the Highways, &c. (inquists) ...	3
Total ...	48

Coroners' Inquests.—During the year 1925, inquests were held on 19 deaths, being 4·6 per cent. of total deaths.

Natural Increase of Population.—The number of births in excess of deaths during 1925 were 375 as compared with 425 in 1924.

Age at Death—

75 or 18·2 per cent of total deaths were infants under 1 year.
 33 or 8·2 " " children between 1 and 5 yrs.
 10 or 2·4 " " " " 5 and 15 yrs.
 27 or 6·7 " " persons " 15 and 25 yrs.
 36 or 8·7 " " " " 25 and 45 yrs.
 83 or 20·1 " " " " 45 and 65 yrs.
 106 or 25·7 " " " aged 65 upwards.

From the above statistics it will be seen that the incidence of death affected chiefly the extremes of life.

Comparison of Death Rate.

England and Wales	...	12·2
105 County Boroughs and Gt. Towns (includ. London)		12·2
157 Smaller Towns	... ...	11·2
London	... ...	11·7
Blyth	... ...	12·6

It will be seen from the above statistics that the death rate in Blyth compares very favourably with that of the country generally.

Table showing the number of deaths and Death Rate for past 5 years.

	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.
1925	411	12·6 per 1000 population,
1924	467	14· " "
1923	420	12·7 " "
1922	496	15·2 " "
1921	462	14·22 " "

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes. (Registrar General's figures.)

Causes of Death.			Males.	Fem'ls.
All Causes	...	...	222	189
1. Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...
2. Small Pox	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	3	2
4. Whooping Cough	...	...	2	2
5. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
7. Influenza	...	...	6	5
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	1	1
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	18	16
11. Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	6	4
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease...	...	...	13	17
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...
14. Diabitis	...	...	1	2
15. Cerebral Hoemorrhages, etc.	...	...	6	14
16. Heart Disease	...	...	23	26
17. Arteric Sclerosis	...	...	2	2
18. Bronchitis	...	...	6	5
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	28	15
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	3	4
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	1	2
22. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	7	6
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	2
24. Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	4	...
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	6	10
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	1
27. Other accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	3
28. Congenital Debility and Malformation, Prem- ature Birth	...	...	20	8
29. Suicide	...	...	5	1
30. Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	11	3
31. Other Defined Diseases	...	...	42	37
32. Causes ill defined or unknown	...	...	9	...

Deaths from Infectious Diseases.

Causes.	Under 1 year											65 upwards.	
	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65			
Pneumonia	10	11	1	...	...	...	2	2	2	4	5	37
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	1
Mem. Croup	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	....	1
Pul. Tuberculosis M	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	2	6	2	1	14
" F	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	2	3	1	...	13
Non-Pulmonary M	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	3
" F	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Totals	11	12	3	1	...	1	4	8	6	12	9	74	

“Deaths from Principal Endemic Diseases.”

The seven “principal epidemic diseases” caused death as follows :—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	...	13
Measles	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	4
Diphtheria (or Mem. Croup)	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	0
Fever (Enteric, Typhus and cont'd Fever)	...	0
Small Pox	...	0

This corresponds to a death rate from all these diseases of .6 per 1000 of the population.

(c) Number of **W**omen dying in or in consequence
of **C**hild-birth :—

(a)	From Sepsis	...	1
(b)	From other causes	...	3

(d) Infantile Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1
year.)

		Males.	Females.	Totals.
(a)	Legitimate	49	27	76
(b)	Illegitimate	2	2	4
	Total	51	29	80

The Infant Mortality for the year is 101·7 per 1000 births.

The Legitimate Infant Mortality rate is 101·3 per 1000 legitimate births.

The Illegitimate Infant Mortality rate is 111 per 1000 illegitimate births.

The following Table shows the cause of death—age incidence and ward, distribution of infants' deaths :—

Infantile Mortality 1925.

Causes of Deaths.	Age Incidence.					Total Deaths under 1 year.	Ward Distribution.										
	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 "	3—4 "	Total deaths under 1 month.		1—3 mos	3—6 mos	6—9 mos	9—12 mos	Beside	Newsh'm	New Deval.	Croft.	Waterloo	Plessey.	Ridley.
Premature Birth	20	3	..	..	23	1	..	..	..	24	6	4	..	3	4	2	5
Infantile Debility	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Convulsions	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Intestinal Catarrh	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Intussusception	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Purpura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	..	3	10	3	2	..	1	1	1	2
Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Hernia	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dentition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ileo-Colitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ill-defined Diseases	2	1	1	..	4	4	..	..	1	9	2	1	..	1	1	1	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Dyspepsia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otitis Media	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Totals	25	4	1	1	31	20	10	6	7	74	14	9	..	20	13	4	14
Registrar General's corrected figures											and Death Rate calculated on them.						
80																	

Registrar General's corrected figures

80 and Death Rate calculated on them.

(e) Deaths from Measles (all ages), 5—Death Rate of '14.

(f) Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 4—Death Rate of '11.

(g) Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) 13—Death Rate of '38.

Any Unusual or Excessive Mortality during the year.

Among the chief causes of death were :—

TUBERCULOSIS ;—This disease caused 33 deaths, or nearly one-ninth of the total deaths. In 1924 Tuberculosis accounted for 56 deaths.

PNEUMONIA.—(All forms) 43 and Bronchitis 11, together also caused about one-seventh of the total deaths.

CANCER.—The deaths from this disease numbered 30 as compared with 28 in 1924.

HEART DISEASE—accounts for 49 as compared with 32 in 1924.

INFANTILE DEBILITY, PREMATUREITY AND CONGENITAL MALFORMATION caused 28 deaths as compared with 33 in 1924.

VIOLENT DEATHS.—14 as compared with 17 in 1924.

The Infantile Mortality rate 101·7 for the year 1925 shows a considerable increase from the previous year when it was 80·7, and compared with the Registrar General's Table is much lighter than that for England and of towns similar to our own size. It is noteworthy however that a large proportion of the deaths 28, or 34 per cent. of them are due to premature birth—congenital debility and malformations at Birth, and 16 or 20 per cent. are due to Pneumonia and Bronchitis.

Deaths from Prematurity is a circumstance over which we have little control. Ante-natal work might give us a little assistance, but we cannot in this respect ignore the influence of overcrowding and insanitary conditions of living.

Debility from Birth and Wasting account for more deaths than is desirable, seeing that it is in such cases that we anticipate benefit from visits to the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Comparison of Infantile Mortality.

England and Wales	...	...	75
105 Co. Boroughs and Gt. Towns (incl. London)			79
157 Smaller Towns (20-50,000 pop.)		...	74
London	...	...	67
Blyth	...	...	101·7

Comparison with previous Infantile Mortality in Blyth.

Year.	Total Deaths under 1 year.	*Deaths from P.B. D. and Mal	Death Rate.
1925	80	28	101·7
1924	72	33	80·7
1923	92	44	106·3
1922	82	34	104·5
1921	97	26	105·8

- * P.B.—Premature Birth
D—Debility.
Mal.—Malnutrition.

D. Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Corporation or by the County Council.

All Tuberculosis cases from Blyth are sent to the County Sanatorium at Woolley or other sanatoria provided by the County Council, none of which institutions are within the district. A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held weekly at Blyth with the County Tuberculosis Officer in attendance.

(1) Tuberculosis.

(2) Maternity.

There is no Maternity Hospital in the borough, but cases of a complicated nature are admitted to the Thomas Knight Memorial Hospital or to the Princess Mary Hospital, Newcastle on-Tyne.

(3) Children.

Beds are available under the County Council scheme for children suffering from Surgical Tuberculosis in hospitals and sanatoria outside the district.

(4) Fever.

The hospital accommodation for Infectious Diseases in the Borough is as follows :—

For cases of.	No. of Beds.	Provided by	Cases admitted 1925.
(a) Small Pox ...	...	...	...
(b) Other Infectious Diseases }	8	Blyth Corporation ...	21
	22	Port San. Authority ...	23

The interchangeable arrangement existing between your Council and the Bedlington U.D. Council enabled us to send all our Small Pox cases into their hospital.

A conference was held at Ashington during the summer under the auspices of the County Council and representatives from the Bedlington, Ashington, Newbiggin, Morpeth and Blyth Councils were present, to consider the advisability, in view of the outbreak of Small Pox in the County and the inadequacy of hospital accommodation for the treatment of the disease, and the possibility of it continuing for an indefinite period, the erection of a Central Small Pox Hospital to meet the requirements of the various authorities mentioned. The matter was fully discussed and while it was agreed that more Small Pox hospital accommodation was required, the cost of erection and administration of such a hospital might be prohibitive. It was left to the County Medical Officer to get out the details as to the cost, &c., and convene another meeting at a future date.

Owing to the limited accommodation for the Nursing Staff at Factory Point Hospital, full advantage cannot be taken of the facilities for the admission of fever patients there, and in this respect the erection of an up-to-date hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases should be considered by your Council.

**E. Institutional Treatment for Unmarried Mothers.—
Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.**

There is no provision made for these cases in the Borough, but they are admitted to the Union Hospital, North Shields.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Clinics, etc	Address.	Provided by	Accom'd't'on.	Work done
1. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	Wellington House Blyth Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-4 p.m.	Blyth Corporation.	Waiting, Dressing and Consulting Rooms.	1 Infant Consultations. 2 Mothers' do. 3 Distribution of Vouchers for Milk Foods
2. School Clinics, etc	Wellington House daily 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays 9-30 to 12 altern'tive Sat'days 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	do. do. do.	do. do. do.	1 Treatment of minor ailments 2 Consultation and advice 3 Insp. of special cases 1 Dental Clinic 2 Ophthalmic Clinics
3. Tuberculosis Dispensary	Trotter Street Blyth.	Northumberland County Council.	do.	1 General consultations
4. Venereal Disease.	Royal Victoria Infirmary Newcastle			1 Consultations 2 Treatment
5. Day Nurseries	Nil.			

F. MEDICAL RELIEF.

Nursing Arrangements, Hospital and other Institutions available for the Borough.

A. Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a.) GENERAL :—The Blyth, Bebside and New Delaval Nursing Associations, all independent of the Blyth Corporation and Northumberland County Council have each a staff of nurses for general district work.

These associations work under the jurisdiction of the Northumberland County Nursing Association and as the fees received from patients are quite inadequate to meet the working expenses, they have to depend to a great extent on voluntary and workmens' contributions for their financial support, but unfortunately owing to the existing conditions in the borough last year, the subscriptions have fallen much short of previous years.

Record of Work done by the Nurses of the various Associations.

	Blyth.	Bebside	N. Delaval	Total.
Number of Nurses.	4	1	1	6
No. of Maternity cases attended ..	338	47	85	470
„ Surgical „ ..	156	47	104	307
„ Medical „ ..	65	30	44	139
Total number of visits ...	9719	2604	3091	15414

(b.) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—No provision is made for the home nursing of infectious diseases, although the Health Visitors in their routine work give advice on the home nursing of Infantile Diarrhœa, Pneumonia in infants, Whooping Cough and Measles.

B. Midwives.

- (a) No midwives are employed by the Corporation.
- (b) Number of midwives practising in the Borough is 1.

The Midwives Act is administered by the Northumberland County Council the local supervising authority under this Act,

G. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES. The Corporation have the use of a horse drawn ambulance belonging to the Port Sanitary Authority for removal of infectious cases.

(b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS CASES. The Corporation provides a Motor Ambulance at the Corporation Yard in Seaforth Street.

The various coal companies in the Borough have their own ambulances.

H. INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

Diseases.	No. of cases notified.	No. of cases admitted to Hospital.	Percentage.
Scarlet Fever ...	61	33	54·
Diphtheria ...	11	6	54·
Erysipelas ...	11	1	9·
Dysentery ...	3	3	100·
Enteric Fever	—	1	

During the year, 44 cases were admitted to Hospital as compared with 72 in 1924. There were no deaths.

SCARLET FEVER.—The number of admissions were 33, or 22 less than in 1924. No deaths occurred.

DIPHTHERIA.—11 cases were reported for the year as against 26 in 1924. Only 1 case was sent into Hospital and the patient made a good recovery.

ENTERIC FEVER.—1 case was admitted from Bedlington.

ERYSIPELAS.—Of 11 cases reported, 1 was admitted to Hospital, and made a good recovery.

DYSENTERY.—3 cases of this disease was reported and admitted to Hospital. All made a good recovery.

Public Health Staff.

Including all who are employed in work connected with the Public Health, whether under the Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, or Education Committees :—

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	}	...	J. M. MacLACHLAN, M.B.C.M.
<i>School Medical Officer</i>			
<i>Port Medical Officer</i>			
<i>Deputy, do.</i>	...	...	W. I. GORDON, M.A., M.B., B ch.
<i>Ophthalmic Surgeon (part time)</i>			A. T. PATERSON, M.D.F.R.C.S., D.P.H.
<i>School Dentist (part time)</i>	..	...	A. MAUGHAN, L.D.S
<i>Veterinary Surgeon</i>	...	..	J. ISHERWOOD, M.R.C.V.S
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>	}	appointed April, 1925.	R. G. REDPATH, M.S.I.A. I. O. WILLIAMS, M.S.I.A.A.R. San. I.
<i>Sanitary Inspector</i>			
<i>Health Visitors</i>	...	...	Miss R. FINLAY. Miss A. HOGARTH.
<i>School Nurses</i>	...	..	Miss S. CARROLL. Miss L. GRAHAM.
<i>Isolation Hospital</i>	...	...	Miss J. WHITE (Matron)

Office of Health Department WELLINGTON HOUSE, BLYTH.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

In accordance with the general order of the Ministry of Health your Sanitary Inspectors have endeavoured by inspection to keep themselves informed in respect of any nuisances existing within the Borough.

ADOPTED ACTS IN OPERATION IN THE BOROUGH.

1. Baths and Washhouses Acts (1846-1899)
2. The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Acts 1890.
3. The Public Health Amendment Act 1890. Parts II, III, IV & V.
4. The Public Street Works Act, 1892.
5. The Public Libraries Act 1892-1901.
6. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 Parts II & III, Section 52 to 60 inclusive, 62 to 66 inclusive and 68 comprised in Parts IV, V, VI and X.
7. The Public Health Acts, 1925. Parts II to V.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.

1. The Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, 1900.
2. For the prevention of Nuisances arising from Snow, Filth, Ashes and Rubbish, and for the prevention of the keeping of Animals on premises so as to be injurious to Health, 1909.
3. Common Lodging Houses, 1909.
4. Slaughter Houses, 1909.
5. Public Bathing, 1909.
6. The Pleasure Ground, 1909.
7. Houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family, 1909.
8. The Regulation of Offensive Trades, 1909.
9. New Streets and Buildings, 1924.
10. Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation allowed by the L.G.B. on the 11th March, 1913.
11. Street Trading, 1922.
12. School Attendance, 1922.
13. Pleasure Grounds, 1923.
14. Omnibuses, 1923.
15. Good Rule and Government, 1923.
16. Whirligigs, Swings and Shooting Ranges, 1924.
17. Seashore, 1925.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—This requires very little comment, as the source, supply and quality of the water is ample and sufficient for the requirements of the Borough. The greater part of the supply is from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and the balance from Hepscott and Healey Wood. In view of the possible contamination of Hepscott water, a bacteriological and chemical analysis of the water was made, but the reports proved satisfactory (see Reports). The majority of the houses in the Borough have a direct water supply.

The consumption of water from the various sources is :

SOURCE OF SUPPLY.	TOTAL GALLONS.
Hepscott	72,547,432
Healey Wood	3,109,843
Newcastle and Gateshead	186,160,725
	<hr/> 261,818,000

Very little progress appears to have been made with the plans for the making of a storage reservoir at Horton.

River and Streams.—Your attention has been drawn to the polluted state of Meggie's Burn (the boundary stream between your area and that of Seaton Delaval,) as the pollution is evidently due to sewage from the Seaton Delaval area, steps should be taken to have the nuisance remedied.

Drainage and Sewage.—The system of drainage in the Borough may be considered satisfactory although in the lower parts of the town, flooding occasionally happens, when this occurs it is generally due to an abnormal high tide accompanied by a strong east wind.

Closet Accommodation.—During the past five years slow but steady progress has been made with the conversion of privy ashpits into the water-carriage system. In that period, 481 conversions have been effected, an average of 96 per year. The policy of the Council is to effect at least 100 conversions per year, in order to comply with the conditions of the Charter of Incorporation. At this rate of progress it will take 30 years at least to complete the change over, as approximately there are still 38,000 privy ashpits in the Borough. As it is essential that this most important health measure should be pursued until not a privy ashpit remains, and in order to speed up the rate of conversions, especially in the town area, I would urge the Council to take advantage of the powers with which they have been invested under Section 39-42 of the Public Health Amendments Act, 1907.

NUMBER OF CONVERSIONS, 1911—1925.

1911—1920	..	...	...	112
1921	...	...	...	17
1922	...	...	...	79
1923	..	...	...	169
1924	...	...	...	113
1925	...	...	...	103

Scavenging.—As in former years this work is carried out in an efficient manner by your own staff under the capable supervision of Mr. Redpath, Senior Sanitary Inspector. With the gradual replacement of horse traction by motor haulage, the work has been greatly speeded up, so much as that the borough is now scavenged once every ten days as against once in fourteen to eighteen days (a great improvement and one which should be very beneficial from a sanitary and health point of view) and the ashbins twice a week or oftener if required.

Part of the refuse is conveyed to suitable tips, while the remainder is deposited on agricultural land and ploughed in.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—Inspection of the cowsheds—dairies and milkshops has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. The sheds were generally found to be in a clean condition and limewashing regularly attended to. Various alterations were suggested and carried out by the owners.

Schools.—The general cleanliness, sanitary conditions, and water supply to all the schools in the borough is satisfactory. All possible means is taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in the schools.

HOUSING.—

I. The original estimate of the number of houses required to meet the needs of the borough was 2000, under the State aided scheme. Of that number 560 have been erected by the Council, and in addition 116 houses have been built by private enterprise during the past two years.

The shortage of houses is still very acute.

There are 572 applicants for Council Houses and new applications are continually being received. At this rate of building the prospects of these applicants getting a house is very remote.

II. That Overcrowding exists is shown by the number of applications (572) for Council houses. Of that number 470 families are living in furnished rooms—sublet rooms, and with their parents, and should a house to house survey of the borough be made, I have no doubt that these figures would be greatly increased.

The long waiting list of applications for Council houses, the large number of houses in which Sub-Tenants are living,—the gradual increase of overcrowding, the many houses which are ear-marked for demolition or reconstruction, together with the additional demand as a result of marriage, is a matter demanding the serious consideration of the Council, which is thus faced with the problem of either extending their building scheme, or looking to private enterprise to meet the shortage. There seems to be little hope of expecting much assistance from the latter source. I would therefore urge the Council to consider the position of extending their scheme, and building a type of house suitable for the requirements of the lower paid artizan.

III. (a) The general standard of houses in the area, with the exception of those earmarked for demolition or reconstruction, may be considered satisfactory.

The principal defects are matters remediable under the Public Health Acts, e.g., defective and insufficient drainage, unpaved yards, insanitary privies and middens, and dampness due to defective house roofs, downspouts and eaves gutters.

The defects in the houses are due to a certain extent to neglect on the part of some tenants, on the other hand, the owners, by a more prompt attention to complaints made in having the defects remedied, could have prevented a great deal of the dilapidation.

(b) A general service of notices as regards unfit houses under the Public Health Acts have been carried out during the year, and a definite area treated under the Housing and Town Planning Act for the reconstruction of the houses.

(c) In all the houses treated under the Housing and Town Planning Act, separate water taps, W.C. accommodation and ashbins have been provided.

IV. Unhealthy areas:—

No action taken.

V. (a) The Bye-laws relating to houses—houses let in lodgings—tents vans, sheds, &c. have been found generally satisfactory.

(b) New Bye-laws are required for Offensive Trade Places.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year.

(a) Total	...	61
(i) By the Local Authority	...	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons	.	59

1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection.	(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	....	170
	(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	....	84
	(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	Nil.
	(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	84

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	80
---	-----	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	3
2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	...	Nil.
(b) By local authority in default of owners —		
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | |
|--|------|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | 9 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | 7 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners. | Nil. | |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | } Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit. | |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | |
| (5) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | |

THE DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY
AT ARMSTRONG COLLEGE,

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

15th December, 1925.

Report of the bacteriological examination of a sample of water received 7th December, 1925, from the Medical Officer of Health, Blyth.

Lab. Ref. Z. 656. Description. Hepscott filtered water

B. coli "Flaginac" type (Houston)

Present in 100 c.c.
but not in 10 c.c.

or equivalent to at least 1 in 1000 c.c. = 00001 %
of Sewage.

Total organisms :—

On agar at 37° C. (48 hrs incubation) less than
10 per c.c.

On gelatin at 32° C. (48 hrs. incubation) less than
10 per c.c.

Streptococci test negative.

B. Enteriditis Sporogenes tests negative.

(Signed) S. H. WARREN,

Deputy for Director of Public
Health Laboratory.

Dr. James M. MacLachlan,
Medical Officer of Health,
Blyth.

THE DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY
AT ARMSTRONG COLLEGE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

15th December, 1925.

Report on the Bacteriological examination of a sample of water received 7th December, 1925, from the Medical Officer of Health, Blyth.

Lab. Ref. Z 657. Description: Hepscott unfiltered water
B. coli "Flaginac" type (Houston).

Present in 10·0 c.c.
but not in 1·0 c.c.

or equivalent to at least 1 in 10 c.c. = ·0001 %
of sewage.

Total organisms:

On ager at 37° C. (48 hrs. incubation) less
than 10 per c.c.

On gelatin at 22° C. (48 hrs. incubation) less
than 10 per c.c.

Streptococci present in 10·0 c.c. = Positive.

B. Enteriditis Sporogenes test negative.

(Signed) S. H. WARREN,

Deputy for Director of Public
Health Department.

Dr. James M. MacLachlan,
Medical Officer of Health,
Blyth.

Public Analysts Laboratory,
10 Dean Street,
Newcastle-on-Tyne,
9th December, 1925.

We hereby certify that we have analysed the under-mentioned sample of Water, and that we find the following results :—

Sample marked :—" Unfiltered water from Hepscott Pit.

	Parts, per 100,000.
Total solid matters in solution dried at 100° C	44·600
Chlorine existing in chlorides	- 2·485
Ammonia	- 0·007
Alluminoid ammonia	- 0·006
Nitrogen existing as nitrates	- 0·015
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes at 25° C	- ———
„ „ 4 hours „	- 0·046
Lead and other poisonous metals	- none
Hardness before boiling Dr. Clark's scale	- ———
„ after boiling 1 hour „	- ———

Appearance in two feet tube	Exceedingly faint yellow and slightly turbid.
Smell when warmed	Very faint earthy.
Microscopical examination of sediment	Satisfactory.

This water is rather hard, containing a good deal of dissolved solid matter, and to that extent will not be so good for washing and general domestic use as a softer water would be ; but the hardness is not more than that of many public supplies through the country. The water is free from any objectionable amount of organic contamination, and is in our opinion suitable for use as a drinking water.

The sample as received is turbid from suspended matter, but we assume that before use it is filtered.

J. & H. S. PATTINSON.

The Blyth Corporation,

J. & H. S. PATTINSON.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

11th March, 1926.

I hereby certify that I have analysed the undermentioned sample of water, and that I find the following results:—

Sample of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.'s supply taken by me from a tap in Welbeck Road, Byker, on the 8th March, 1926.

Parts per 100'000.

Total solid matters in solution, dried at 100 %	26'400
Chlorine existing as chlorides	1'136
Ammonia	0'004
Aluminoid ammonia	0'010
Nitrogen existing as nitrates	0'015
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes at 25°C	0'088
do. do. 4 hours do.	0'176
Lead and other poisonous metals	none.
Hardness before boiling, Dr. Clark's scale	19'0
do. after boiling 1 hour do.	8'3

Appearance in two-foot tube ... exceedingly faint yellow and clear.

Smell when warmed none.

Microscopical examination of sediment.....satisfactory.

The water this month is very slightly harder than last month's sample, but does not differ sensibly in any other respect. The sample tested and others taken on the same day in the Elswick district, the Sandyford district, and on the quayside, were all well filtered and free from smell and suitable chemically speaking, for a town supply.

(Signed) J. T. DUNN.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—

The bulk of the milk is imported into the borough, and the wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into the area and the arrangements for the supply and distribution of it, together with the administration of all the acts and orders connected therein, are satisfactory.

The examination of all samples of Milk is carried out by the County Authority.

Registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shop Orders are :—

Wholesale Traders and Producers	...	15
Purveyors	...	25

The number of Cowsheds in the Borough is 15 and approximately 94 cows are kept. The sheds were generally found in a fairly clean condition, and they were regularly lime-washed.

No action was taken during the year as to Tuberculous Milk or Tuberculous Cattle. A general supervision being kept on all producers and purveyors of milk.

No licences were granted for the sale of milk under the special designations classified as in the Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1923.

One license, for bottling graded Tuberculosin Tested Milk, was refused. The applicant declining to make the necessary alterations in his premises.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order 1918.

Under this order dried milk of various brands were supplied by the Council at the Welfare Centre through the Health Visitors to nursing mothers and infants to the value of £240 4s. 6d.

Meat.

The slaughter houses are kept under such constant supervision as their scattered situation and the irregular hours of slaughtering allows. All carcasses are examined either at the time of killing or as soon after as possible. All diseased meat is destroyed by cremation under the supervision of the sanitary inspector.

The administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 as regards stalls, shop, stores and vehicles is carried out under the careful supervision of your sanitary staff. Every facility being granted by the vendors for the examination of the food stuffs.

Meat was retailed from 32 shops in the Borough, and 1 from outside.

Slaughter-Houses.

There are 15 licensed slaughter houses in the borough, of which 6 are owned privately and 9 by the Corporation. As the position of the former is objectionable owing to their close proximity to dwelling houses, the advisability of closing them should be considered by the Council, but as the accommodation at the Corporation Slaughter Yard is limited and now taxed to its utmost, and insufficient to meet the requirements of the trade, the question of either extending the present yard, or the erection of an Abbatoir, where all the slaughtering could be done under one roof, should first be considered by the Council.

TABLE OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES 1920—1925.

Licensed.	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec. 1925.
Owned by Corporation ...	10	9	9
Owned privately ...	9	6	6

Other Foods.

All premises where food stuffs are manufactured and stored *i.e.* Bakehouses, Dairies and Milk Shops, &c. have been under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors. The cleanliness and sanitary conditions in these places having their special attention, and any little suggestion from your staff for the better protection of the food ~~and~~ was readily acquiesced ~~us~~ⁱⁿ and carried out by the Vendors.

(See Sanitary Inspector's Report for amount of diseased meat, &c. destroyed after inspection having been found unfit for human consumption.)

There are 25 bakehouses in the borough, 7 factory and 18 workshops, which require considerable supervision to secure the maintenance of cleanliness.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) or Dried Milk (Regulations) 1923, during the year.

Food and Drugs Acts.

No action was necessary during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are 6 lodging houses in the town. They have been regularly inspected throughout the year and are kept in a satisfactory state of order and cleanliness.

The health of the lodgers has been uniformly good.

Factories and Workshops.

Particulars of Inspections, &c. are given in the following Table required by the Home Office.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the Borough of Blyth, on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

I. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES, (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

(1) Premises.	Number of		
	(2) Inspections.	(3) Written Notices.	(4) Prosecutions
Factories ...	16	7	Nil.
Workshops ...	91	25	—
Workplaces ...	—	—	—
Total ...	107	32	Nil.

II, DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (4)
	Found. (1)	Remedied. (2)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (3)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts				
Want of Cleanliness ...	8	8	—	Nil.
Want of Ventilation ..	2	0	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	20	19	—	—
Sanitary Accom- [modation. | insufficient	—	—	—	—
| unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—
| not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Total	32	28	—	Nil.

BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

**Registered Factories and Workshops other than
Coal Mines, Railways and Coal Staithes.**

Factories and Workshops on the Register at the end of the year 1925.	Factories.	Workshops.	Total.
Harbour Works and Import Docks -	1	—	1
Shipbuilding Yards and Repairing Docks (1 closed) -	2	—	2
Electric Power Station -	1	—	1
Stone Dressing (and Quarrying 1) -	2	—	2
Bakehouses -	7	18	25
Dressmakers and Milliners -	—	16	16
Tailors -	—	10	10
Builders, Joiners and Woodworkers -	8	22	30
Printers -	5	—	5
Engineers and Blacksmiths -	11	6	17
Plumbers and Gasfitters -	2	9	11
Boot and Shoe Repairers -	7	7	14
Painters and Decorators -	—	5	5
Motor and Cycle Repairers and Garages	5	12	17
Picture Framers -	—	3	3
Saddlers -	—	2	2
Laundries -	1	1	2
Sugar Boilers -	2	—	2
Shirt and Hosiery Makers -	—	2	2
Mis- Monumental Sculptors 3	—	19	19
cel- Manufacturing Chemists 1			
lan- Bottling Stores 5			
cous Clock & Watch Repairers 4			
Trades Marine Stores, etc. 6			
	54	132	186

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Centre is held at Wellington Street. Blyth, and there are two sessions weekly, Tuesday and Thursday, 2—4 p.m. The Centre was open 65 times during the year.

The total attendance for the year was 2,267, or an average attendance of 34·5 per session, as against 24 per session in 1924. This increase of 10 per session may be taken as a good indication of the high estimation in which the Centre is held by those for whose special benefit it was organised.

The work is conducted by the two Health Visitors with the assistance of Voluntary Lady Helpers from the Welfare Committee. The M.O.H. is in attendance at all sessions.

The work of the Centre still continues in a satisfactory manner, mothers being anxious about the welfare and rearing of their infants. The babies are weighed and records kept of their progress. Mothers are advised on matters relating to their own or their babies' health.

No treatment is given, mothers being usually advised to consult their own medical attendant.

At the Centre, short talks on various subjects are given by the Medical Officer, and consultations and inspections of children conducted in the usual way.

As regards ante-natal work, little advance has been made in this direction, beyond the Home Visiting by the Health Visitors.

Much good is done by the daily visits to the homes, giving advice to the mothers on how to feed, and in cases of sickness how to treat the baby. Many visits being made to infants suffering from Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

Milk Foods.—Owing to the economic conditions existing in the borough during the past year, due to unemployment in the mines and shipbuilding industries with the consequent lessening of the family income, the demand for free foods has been much in excess than the amount estimated for. Each application is carefully considered, after a full statement of family income—particulars of family, &c. has been filled in a case paper, and finally approved by the Welfare Committee and coming within the regulations approved by the Ministry of Health.

The value of the food supplied during the year was £240 6s. 4d.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE AT THE CENTRE.

Attendance during the year—		
By Health Visitors	...	130
By Infants and children (1-5 yrs.)	...	2267
Consultations—		
Infants and Children	...	1250
Average Attendance—		
(a) By Health Visitors	...	2
(b) By Infants and Children	...	34
Number of times Centre open during the year		65

There has been 1 case of Scarlet Fever, 12 of Chicken Pox, 1 of Erysipelas, 16 of Pneumonia, notified amongst children under 1 year, of that number 10 cases of Pneumonia and 1 of Erysipelas proved fatal. In addition to these notifiable diseases, 1 case of meningitis, 1 of Measles and 1 of Whooping Cough also proved fatal.

The Health Visitors' Work during the year has been entirely devoted to Child Welfare, and in addition to Home Visiting, advice is often sought and given on matters outside their own work.

The Visits during the year were :—

First Visits to Infants	...	781
Re-Visits to Infants	...	4681
The Visits to Children (1-5 yrs.)	...	2498
		<hr/>
Total Number of Visits made	...	7960

SPECIAL VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS.

Diseases.	No. of cases certified.	No. of cases visited	No. of visits made.
Ophthal. Neonatorum...	12	12	49
Puerperal Fever ...	2	2	Nil.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

Registered.	Legitimate	750	
	Illegitimate	36	Total 786
Notified.	Live Births	674	
	Still Births	32	Total 706
Notified by Doctors and Parents.....		698	Total 698
Notified by Midwives		8	Total 8
No. of Births not notified but visited...			76

It is to be regretted that the notification of the births by doctors and parents is not better carried out, as without notification it is impossible for the after visitation of infants, as required by the Notification of Birth Acts to be efficiently carried out by the Health Visitors.

PARTICULARS OF WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE NOTIFICATION OF
BIRTHACT 1907.

[illegible]

C.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Prevention of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases.—The diseases which were compulsorily notified during the year, were the same as in 1924, there having being no addition to or removals from the list.

Prevalence.—During the year 1925, there were 535 cases of infectious diseases notified as compared with 823 in 1924.

Table of Infectious Diseases notified.—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Totals. Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	61	33	...
Pneumonia ..	128	...	37
Small Pox ...	20	20	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	12	...	...
Diphtheria ...	11	6	1
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	2	...	2
Erysipelas ..	11	1	1
Dysentery ...	3	3	...
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	...
Malaria ...	1	..	..
Chicken Pox ...	198	...	...
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	58	} 24	27
(Other Organs) ..	27		6
Totals ...	535	88	75

See Appendix Table I. II. & III. for Age Incidence, Ward distribution, Death Incidence and Monthly Incidence of the Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows a comparison of the number of infectious cases reported for the last 5 years.

Disease.	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
Scarlet Fever	61	164	161	125	68
Pneumonia	128	180	136	153	68
Small Pox	20	2	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	12	18	17	23	21
Diphtheria	11	26	25	20	3
Puerperal Fever	2	1	...	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	7	...	...	2
Erysipelas	11	17	26	18	28
Dysentery	3	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (incl. ParaTyphoid)	1	9	2	7	7
Malaria	1	2	4	6	1
Chicken Pox	198	296	14	...	...
Tuberculosis (pul.)	58	64	77	61	43
(other organs)	27	37	20	37	40
Totals	535	823	482	451	308

Scarlet Fever.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
No. of Cases notified	61	164	161	125	68
Attack rate per 1000 pop.	1·7	4·8	4·8	3·8	2·1
No. of Deaths	—	—	1	1	—
Death Rate per 1000 pop.	—	—	·03	·03	—

First quarter, 28 ; second quarter, 13 ; third quarter, 7 ; fourth quarter, 13—total 61.

Of the total number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified—12 or 19·3 per cent. occurred among children under five years of age ; 38 or 62·1 per cent. were of school age ; and 11 or 18 per cent. were of other ages.

Diphtheria and Croup.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
No. of cases notified	11	26	25	20	30
Attack rate per 1000 pop.	·3	·7	...	...	...
No. of Deaths	1	1	2	1	2
Death Rate per 1000 pop.	·02	0·2	...	...	...

Three cases were notified from Croft Ward, four from Waterloo and four from Plessey Wards.

Pneumonia.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
No. of cases notified	128	180	136	153	68
Attack rate per 1000 pop.	3·7	5·3	·41	4·6	2
No. of Deaths	43	56	40	52	43
Death Rate per 1000 pop.	1·2	1·6	1·2	1·5	1·3

Of the 128 cases of Pneumonia notified—11 were of Influenzal Pneumonia, and whereas only primary and influenzal are notifiable, the 43 deaths recorded in the above table were from pneumonia of all forms.

As will be seen from the Age Incidence Table of the Infectious Diseases, pneumonia is no respecter of age, as the disease has attacked persons of all ages from infancy to 65 years upwards.

Erysipelas.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
No. of cases notified	11	17	4	18	28
Attack rate per 1000 pop.	·3	·5	·1	·5	·8
No. of Deaths	1	—	—	—	—
Death Rate per 1000 pop.	·02	—	—	—	—

Ward Distribution :—Newsham 1 ; New Delaval 1 ; Croft 2
Waterloo 3 ; Plessey 1 ; Ridley 2 , Port Sanitary 1.

Enteric Fever.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
No. of cases notified	1	9	2	7	7
Attack rate per 1000 pop.	·02	·2	·06	·2	·2
No. of Deaths	—	1	—	1	1
Death rate per 1000 pop.	—	·02	—	·03	·03

Ward Distribution :—Only one case was notified during the year from the Ridley Ward.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
No. of cases notified	2	7	...	...	22
Attack rate per 1000 pop.	0·5	·20	...	...	·0
No. of Deaths	2	2	...	...	1
Death Rate per 1000 pop.	·05	·05	...	...	·0·2

Ward Distribution :—The cases in 1925 were notified from Newsham and Ridley Wards respectively.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Two cases occurred during the year and were reported from the Waterloo Ward.

The disease was responsible for 1 death.

MALARIA.

One case was reported for 1925, as compared with 2 in 1924, 4 in 1923, 7 in 1922, and 2 in 1921.

DYSENTERY.

Three cases of this disease were reported for 1925, but only one proved positive. All were removed to hospital and made a good recovery.

SMALL POX.

Of the 20 cases reported during the year, 17 proved positive.

All the cases were removed to hospital, as many of the contacts, who consented, were vaccinated, while the others were kept under supervision for 14 days. All the patients were unvaccinated. There were no fatalities from the disease.

Ward Distribution.

Newsham.	Croft.	Waterloo,	Plessey.	Ridley.
3	11	1	1	4

It will be seen from the age incidence table, that the age of the patients ranged from 2 to 65 years of age.

VACCINATION.

The number of primary vaccinations by the Public Vaccinator (1921-1925) was 1606, and the number of births during that period was 4243, this is equal to a percentage of 37·9 of children born. The small percentage of primary vaccinations is to be deplored, especially since the various recent outbreaks of Smallpox and in view of the risk an unprotected community incurs.

CHICKEN POX.

Owing to the similarity of the symptoms of Chicken Pox to those of the present outbreak of Small Pox, your Council made the disease notifiable.

With the exception of January the disease has existed throughout the year all over the district.

The disease was very mild in character and there was no fatalities.

Ward Distribution.

	Bebside.	Newsham.	New Delaval.	Croft.	Waterloo.	Plessey.	Ridley.
1925	16	28	8	44	37	31	31
1924	86	30	3	94	23	36	27

D. OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Twelve cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year and each case was visited by the Health Visitors, 48 visits being made to them. They all made a good recovery.

	Cases notified.	Treated at home.	Treated at hospita	Vision unimp'r'd	Vision impaired	Total blindn'ss
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	12	12	—	—	—	—

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

I. Whooping Cough.

The following Table shows the deaths and death-rates for Whooping Cough for the past 5 years.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
No. of Deaths ...	4	3	7	4	10
Death Rate per 1000 pop.	·11	·08	·21	·12	·30

II. Epidemic Diarrhœa.

Epidemic Diarrhœa was responsible for 13 deaths. The following Table shows the number of deaths with corresponding death rates for the last 5 years.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
No. of Deaths ...	13	7	8	7	19
Death Rate per 1000 pop.	·3	·2	2	·2	·5

III. Influenza.

The number of deaths reported during the year from Influenza was 11. The following table shows the deaths during the years 1921—1925. In 1922, the disease was very prevalent in the Spring and autumn months and with its complications accounted for 45 deaths.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
Death Rate per 1000 pop.	11	15	6	45	16
No. of Deaths ...	·32	·44	·18	1·38	·49

During its periodic invasion of Blyth, the disease is not confined to any one particular district in the borough.

IV. Measles.

Measles was responsible for 5 deaths and the following table shows the number of deaths and corresponding death rates for the past five years.

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
No. of Deaths ...	5	3	21	—	15
Death Rate per 1000 pop.	·14	·08	·63		·46

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

This term includes deaths from the following diseases:—
Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria and Croup,
Diarrhoea (under 2 years), Measles and Whooping Cough.

COMPARISON TABLES.—No. of Deaths and Death Rates (1921-1925.):

No. of Deaths.						Death Rates per 1000 pop				
Disease	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
Small Pox67	.41	1.1	.4	1.4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	1	1			
Enteric Fever	...	1	...	1	1					
Diphtheria	1	1	2	1	2					
Diarrhoea	13	3	21	...	15					
Measles	5	3	7	4	10					
Whooping Cough	4	7	8	7	19					
	23	15	39	14	48					

For the year 1925 this is equal equal to a Zymotic Death Rate of .67 per 1000 population as against .41 in 1924.

Comparison of Birth, Death, Infantile Mortality, Zymotic & Tuberculosis Death Rates (1921—1925).

	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
Birth Rate	23.7	26.74	26.52	24	28.32
Death Rate	12.6	14.	12.7	15.2	14.22
Zymotic Death Rate	.67	.41	1.1	1.4	1.4
Tuberculosis (pulmonary D.R.)	.7	.4	.8	1.2	1.2
(other organs D.R.)	.1	.2	.02	.5	1.5
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 births)	101.7	80.71	106.3	104.5	105.8

LABORATORY WORK.

All laboratory work is carried out at the Durham College of Medicine Laboratory, Newcastle-on-Tyne, under the Northumberland County Council Scheme.

The annexed table shows the nature and number of specimens submitted during the year, together with the results of the bacteriological examination :—

Bacteriological Returns and Results 1925.

Sent in by	Diphtheria.			Tubercle			Enteric Fever.			Total.		Grand Total of Specimens Examined.
	Pos.	Neg.	Tot'l	Pos.	Neg.	Tot'l	Pos.	Neg.	Tot'l	Pos.	Neg.	
Dr. Moore Co. T.B. Officer	...	...	...	17	64	81	...	..	...	17	64	81
Medical Practitioners	4	26	30	6	23	29	1	1	2	11	50	61
Totals	4	26	30	23	87	110	1	1	2	28	114	142

Antitoxin Serum is supplied to medical practitioners on request 60 Bulbs of 2,000 each or 120,000 uni's in all were issued during the year

No use has been made of the Schick or Dick tests either in Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever.

Tuberculosis cases from Blyth are sent to the County Sanatorium at Woolley or hospitals provided by the Northumberland County Council, none of which institutions are within the district.

Patients suffering from Tuberculosis and re-iding at home are visited by the Northumberland County Council's Health Visitors, but their duties are more advisory than nursing.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary under the supervision of Dr. Moore, County Tuberculosis Officer, is held weekly at Blyth.

Arrangements for Disinfection.

A "Sack" disinfector for the disinfection of clothing, &c. has been installed at Factory Point Hospital, while infected premises are disinfected with Sulphume and Formalin.

There are no facilities at present for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary.					Non-Pulmonary.				
	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
No. of cases notified	58	64	77	61	83	27	37	20	37	40
Attack rate per 1000 pop.	1.6	1.9	2.3	1.8	2.5	.7	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.6
No. of Deaths ...	27	36	27	39	40	6	14	9	18	19
Death rate per 1000 pop.	.7	1.09	.8	1.2	1.2	.1	.4	.02	.5	.5

Notification of Tuberculosis.

All the deaths (27) recorded from pulmonary and the 6 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were primary cases not previously notified.

General notification of Tuberculosis is efficiently carried out by the medical practitioners in the borough.

The following Table gives the Age Incidence and Ward Distribution :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon'ry		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon'ry	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under 1 year	...	....	1	....	....	...	....	....
1-5 years	2	....	4	5	1	...	....	2
5-10 „	4	1	...	2	....	1	...	...
10-15 „	5	2	3	3	1	1	1	1
15-20 „	4	5	1	3	1	5	...	...
20-25 „	1	4	....	....	2	2	...	...
25-35 „	1	10	1	1	....	3	...	....
35-45 „	5	5	1	....	6	...	...	....
45-65 „	6	3	1	....	2	1	1	...
65 & upwards	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	....
Totals	28	30	13	14	14	13	3	3
	58		27		27		6	
	85				33			

Ward Distribution of Deaths.

Bebside	Newsh'm	New Delaval.	Croft.	Waterloo	Plessey.	Ridley.	Total.
5	3	3	8	8	4	2	33

HEALTH VISITORS' REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

In presenting our Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1925, we beg to state that during the year, the number of births notified as having occurred in your area was 706, viz. :—

Males 360 ; Females 346.

Number of Still-births were	...	32
Notified by Doctors	...	694
Notified by Midwives	...	8
Notified by Parents	...	4
Number of Births not notified (but visited)	75	
Number of Infants visited (first visit)	....	781
Re-Visits of Infants (under 1 year)	....	4681
Visits to Children (1—5 years)	...	2498

Total number of Visits 7960

Table of Statistics of Visits paid to children during the year :—

District.	Under 1 year.	1-5 years.
Blyth ..	4173	1774
Bebside ...	207	105
Cowpen ...	200	153
Cowpen Colliery ...	35	35
Newsham ...	227	165
South Newsham ...	78	36
New Delaval	368	146
Isabella Colliery ...	174	84
Totals ...	5462	2498

In 574 cases, the infants were found to be breast fed.

In 55 cases, part breast and part artificial food.

In 61 cases, wholly artificially fed.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

12 cases of this disease were notified and 49 visits were made to them. All the cases made a good recovery with no impairment of vision.

Welfare Centre.

The Centre is held at Wellington House on Tuesdays and Thursdays (2—4 p.m.) with the Medical Officer of Health in attendance at each Session.

The Centre has been open 65 times during the year, and 377 mothers with their babies attended, making a total attendance of 2267 times, giving an average attendance of 34.57 per session as against 24 per session in 1924.

Owing to the increased attendance, it was deemed advisable to hold two sessions per week, and since September, two sessions have been held weekly. A Ladies Committee was formed at that time and their attendance and assistance in the work of the Centre is much appreciated by your staff.

It is very encouraging to note the increase in the attendance at the Centre, evidence that the advice and instruction given there is much appreciated by the mothers attending.

Our Visits in the homes are well received, mothers appreciate the advice and instruction given as to the value of breast-feeding—the feeding of older children—personal hygiene, and the general health of mothers and children. On our return visits to the homes it is most encouraging to see in most cases our instructions are being carried out as far as possible. Advice is often sought in connection with matters other than our own work.

Baby Foods have been supplied in needy and necessitous cases. Each application is carefully considered by the Committee, as to the family income, &c., and coming within the scale approved by the Ministry of Health.

Owing to the industrial depression existing in the Borough, the applications have been more numerous than in previous years.

The total value of food supplied during the year was £240 6s. 4d,

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

R. M. FINLAY,
A. A. HOGARTH, } Health Visitors.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notifiable during the year 1925.

I. Age Incidence.														II. Ward Distribution.									
Disease.	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 over	Total all ages	at Ages-years.									
														Rebside.	Newsham.	New Delaval.	Croft.	Waterloo.	Plessey.	Kidley.	Port Sanitary.		
Scarlet Fever	1	1	3	2	5	19	19	7	3	...	1	...	61	1	13	2	9	9	6	21	...		
Chicken Pox	12	20	13	18	25	97	12	1	...	...	...	...	198	16	28	8	44	37	34	31	...
Erysipelas	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	2	2	11	...	1	1	2	3	1	2	...
Ophthalmia	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	3	3	2	1	3	...	...
Neonatorum	...	2	...	...	1	3	1	2	1	1	...	...	11	...	...	...	3	4	4	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	2	3	6	1	20	...	3	...	11	1	1	4	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	16	31	13	8	12	17	3	2	10	5	5	6	128	6	13	17	30	25	20	17	...		
Totals	42	54	31	29	43	139	38	13	22	14	16	9	450	23	63	31	101	81	71	79	1		

III. Age Groups (Deaths) of Infectious Diseases.

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 over	Total
Pneumonia	10	11	1	...	...	..	...	2	2	2	4	5	37
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encep. Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Mem. Croup	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Measles	1	2	1	...	...	1	Not notifiable			...	...	...	5
Pertussis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Totals	13	14	3	...	...	1	...	2	2	3	5	5	48

IV. Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1925.

	Scarlet Fever.	Pneumonia	Ophthal. Neonat'm.	Erysipelas.	Chicken Pox	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever	Small Pox	Malaria.	Enteric Fever.	Dysentry	Encep. Lethargica	Totals.
January	10	9	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
February	6	9	2	1	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
March	12	7	2	...	16	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	41
April	4	15	3	2	25	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	53
May	5	13	1	...	38	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	61
June	4	13	..	...	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
July	3	22	1	2	21	1	1	3	...	...	1	...	55
August	1	6	...	...	10	1	...	3	1	1	1	...	24
September	3	3	...	...	8	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	17
October	9	6	2	3	15	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	40
November	4	9	...	1	14	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
December	...	16	...	1	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Total	61	128	12	11	198	11	2	20	1	1	3	2	450

Table III.—Deaths registered during the Calendar
Year 1925 in

BLYTH BOROUGH.

(CIVILIANS ONLY).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females
All Causes	222	189
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...
Small Pox ... ..	...	...
Measles	3	2
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...
Whooping Cough	2	2
Diphtheria ... ..	...	1
Influenza	6	5
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	18	16
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	6	4
Cancer, malignant disease	13	17
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...
Diabetes	1	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	6	14
Heart disease	23	26
Arterio-sclerosis	2	2
Bronchitis	6	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	28	15
Other respiratory diseases	3	4
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	1	2
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	7	6
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	...	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	...
Acute and chronic nephritis	6	10
Puerperal sepsis ... ..	...	1
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... ..	...	3
Congenital Debility and malformation... premature birth	20	8
Suicide	5	1
Other Deaths from violence	11	3
Other defined diseases	42	37
Causes ill-defined or unknown	9	...
Spec'l Causes (included above) Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...
Deaths of infants under 1 year	51	29
Illegitimate	2	2
Total Births	411	375
Legitimate	393	357
Illegitimate	18	18
Population }	34,070	

Table X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1000 Population.								RATE PER 1000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS		
		All Causes	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases. Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9 1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	18.1	79	92.1	7.3 0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000)	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9 1.1
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	—	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9 0.0

Factory Point Hospital

Miss J. WHITE

...

...

Matron

21 Cases Scarlet Fever admitted.

26 „ „ „ discharged

Under Treatment on 31st December...Nil.

Date of Admission.	Name.	Age.	Disease.	Result.	Discharge.
		years			
Jany 9	Mary Crawford	14	Scarlet Fever	Good	Febr 21
13	Cyril Peek	13	do.	do.	21
13	John Berry	12	do	do.	21
13	Frank Hatfield	10	do	do.	28
15	Wm. W. Morris	16	do.	do	21
Mar. 21	Margt. Douglas	12	do.	dc.	Apr. 25
21	Ethel Douglas	5	do	do	25
25	Cynthia Johnson	15	do	do.	May 5
30	Olive Lowther	12	do.	do.	5
Apr. 25	Howard Davison	16	do.	do.	27
25	Richard Davison	12	do.	do.	27
May 8	Margt. Smith	8	do.	do.	June 10
28	James Bone	12	do.	do	July 6
June 5	James Straughan	16	do.	do.	13
10	John Hanley	5	do.	do.	27
Sept. 10	Walker Joicey	12	do	do.	Oct. 17
Oct. 6	Dorothy Head	5½	do.	do	Nov. 14
9	Isabella Henderson	21	do.	do	14
14	James Cunningham	5	do	do	24
Nov. 5	Olive Lonsdale	5	do	do	Dec. 19
25	Henry Doy	5	do.	do.	31
Under treatment 1st Jan 1925.	Ernest Kirby	15	do.	do.	Jany. 9
	Hugh Lovat	13	do	do.	9
	Thos Sutherland	15	do.	do	9
	John Sutherland	7	do.	do.	9
	Lily Brown	7	do.	do	24

PORT SANITARY HOSPITAL.

B. DINGWALL, Matron.

Admitted.	Discharged.	Under Treatment 31st Dec.
12 cases Scarlet Fever 6 „ Diphtheria 1 „ Erysipelas 2 „ Enteric Fever 1 „ Dysentery 1 „ Measles	17 cases Scarlet Fever 6 Diphtheria 1 Erysipelas 3 Enteric Fever 1 Dysentery 1 Measles	NIL.
23 cases	29 cases.	

Date of Admission	Name.	By whom sent.	Disease.	Date of Discharge
Jan. 3	John Lapicu	C. of B.	Scarlet Fever	Feb. 23
10	Ronald Scholes	...	...	„ 28
19	Douglas Pibbs	...	...	„ 28
19	Harold Benfield	...	...	„ 28
Feb 4	John Flowers	...	...	Mar. 14
28	Monica Lovat	...	Diphtheria	„ 21
Mar. 1	Margaret Straker	...	Scarlet Fever	Apr. 25
Apr. 9	Andrew Ogle	Port S. Auth.	Measles	„ 20
20	Olaf Eversen	...	Erysipelas	June 6
June 2	John Whittle	Bed. U.D.C	Enteric Fever	„ 25
10	Andrew Spowart	C. of B.	Diphtheria	July 7
23	John Percy	...	Scarlet Fever	„ 25
July 1	Isabella Straker	...	...	Aug. 1
Aug. 7	Henry Willis	...	Diphtheria	„ 29
8	Arthur Bowyer	...	Enteric Fever	„ 26
14	May Marshall	...	Scarlet Fever	Sept. 14
Sept 14	Ivan McAdmine	Port S. Auth.	Dysentery	„ 21
Oct. 26	Margaret Fraser	C. of B.	Scarlet Fever	Dec. 31
28	George Fraser	...	...	„ 14
Nov. 5	Elsie Oliver	...	...	„ 14
7	Jean Cantley	...	Diphtheria	Nov. 28
12	Elsie Dobson	...	...	„ 28
12	John Paterson	...	...	„ 28

To Alderman Neale (Chairman), and Members of the
Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my first Annual Report summarizing the work done by the Sanitary Inspectors' Department during 1925, this referring more particularly to the period since the appointment of Inspector Williams and myself in April last.

Summary of the more important matters attended to and improvements effected during the year.

HOUSING.

South Row, New Delaval : Extensive improvements completed to colliery houses with addition of scullery, separate water supply and W.C. to each house; roadway and yard space re-paved.

Dobson's Buildings, Gregory Street : Extensive improvements. Unpaved roads and courts to colliery houses reported upon, also inefficient stand pipe water supply at New Delaval.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

103 privy conversions.

Trade places visited *re* replacing ashpits with covered bins.

SCAVENGING.

Clearance speeded up. Carts replaced by 2 motors. Two Tips improved by sleeper roads and one extensively drained.

NUISANCES.

Noxious smells from Gas works investigated and diminished.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

Pollution of Meggie's Burn investigated and reported.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Town circularized, and special disinfection, etc. *re* Small Pox.

Purchase of 'Sack' portable steam Disinfector advised and effected.

PREVENTION OF FOOD CONTAMINATION.

Re Meat Regulations 1924. Meeting of Butchers addressed under auspices of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee and meat Inspection strictly carried out.

Improvement of 2 market stalls.

Exposure of meat at open shop windows ceased.

Promiscuous killing of pigs at colliery houses diminished.

Improvement in cleanliness of Ice Cream vendors premises.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Structural improvements at 2 dairies and 1 cowshed.

(A) Sanitary Inspection of District and Housing Conditions.

Details of the inspections for sanitary purposes such as the abatement of nuisances and Housing defects are set out in Tables I., II. and III., which give also a roughly classified list of the types of nuisances dealt with by notices—informal and statutory for legal enforcement—and also the work effected.

The Tables do not include all inspections made, there being necessarily in a first year's work many inspections that are more or less 'casual' and made in order to note the worst 'hot beds' of insanitary property which will need future attention. Of these, unfortunately, there are many in the district. Nor does the item marked 'Nil' in the "Housing Acts" Table as to 'houses considered unfit for habitation' indicate that non such have been found, there being many congested, back to back, overcrowded and otherwise unfit houses awaiting a definite policy of slum clearance by the Council.

Amongst untabulated inspections should be included also a general inspection of Bebside Ward completed at the latter part of the year and reported as part of a comprehensive Report on the Housing Conditions of each separate Ward as requested by the Council. This, when completed in the coming year, will present the facts which may press the need for and enable the outlining of such a policy.

It has to be recognized that, apart from the Council's existing excellent housing scheme which meets to some extent the 'natural increase of population' side of housing shortage, the primary obligation for which the Housing Acts were framed—that of slum clearance and replacement of the poorest class of ratepayers—remains to be grappled with.

Structural Repairs under the Public Health Acts and Housing Act 1925.

Difficulty is experienced in enforcing repairs, the rent takings being affected by depressed trade, while a large number of houses have for years been allowed to fall into a dilapidated state to such an extent that repairs now become a formidable and expensive matter.

There is also, naturally, a disinclination on the part of the Inspector to enforce repairs in areas formerly earmarked for slum clearance until a policy is settled upon.

Unpaved Roads and Spaces at Colliery Houses.

The prevalence in the district of the above, with the resulting nuisance to comfort and health, has been brought to your notice and presents a problem of enforcement not yet solved, being complicated by the necessity of extensive reconstruction of roads and drains together with privy conversions and displacement of the obsolete stand pipe system of water service; also by the fact that a main Coal Company for financial reasons have had to cease improvements undertaken in this direction on the completion of one colliery row, (South Row, New Delaval).

Sanitary Conveniences.

103 privy conversions have been carried out during the year by owners at their own cost. These include 47 at South Row as above and 56 mainly in the town area.

Difficulty is experienced in that, although the necessity of conversions is recognized, an intention on the part of owners to wait and see what the Council intend to do as to bearing part cost is very evident.

The need of a scheme for that purpose has been brought to your notice and eventually the desire expressed to go into the costs of such.

The slow adjustment of the local mind to the need of reform in the matter of sanitary conveniences is evidenced by the fact that the inevitable ashpit is still included in new premises built or alterations made, even where a W.C. is provided and, in improvements to their colliery houses in later years, the Colliery Companies have rebuilt and retained privies as well as ash pits, (as at Newsham, South Newsham and Bebside), an otherwise ideal improvement to the Isabella Colliery village having been marred in this respect by the retention of privies at one whole row (New Row).

This entails a double type of scavenging and adds to the cost.

It should be more clearly understood that ash pits are not now required ; that covered ash bins are in every way more healthy and can be emptied twice per week.

In regard to ash pits at trade premises a requirement to provide proper bins as a condition of free removal of trade refuse has been made with success in this direction, the Council, for convenience of purchasers, providing bins at cost price.

Drainage and Sewerage.

57 choked drains were attended to. Rods, etc. are loaned out and tenants instructed wherever possible to clear obstructions.

A nuisance of noxious smells from Gas works effluent escaping from sewers and drains and entering dwelling houses, etc., was investigated, resulting in a considerable depreciation of the nuisance by the Gas Company.

All new drain work done in compliance with Notices is strictly tested and efforts are being made to raise the standard of work carried out.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

A Register of these is being prepared, as the Bye-Laws applying to them *re* limewashing, etc. do not appear to have been yet enforced.

Sanitary Inspection of District. Number of Inspections, Notices served, and Defects remedied.

TABLE I.

Sanitary Officers Order, 1922, Art. 19 (12.)

District—BLYTH.		No. of Inspections during year.	Re-inspections.	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye Law.	No. remedied after letter or interview.	No. of informal Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	Legal proceedings.
Population, 34,070.										
Inspectors— Mr. R. G. REDPATH. Mr. I. O. WILLIAMS.										
HOUSING. (Total Houses, 170).	Structural Defects.	136	140	136	71	65	28	12	7	..
	Defective Spouting, Roofs, &c...	2	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
	Dampness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Unfit for Habitation	6	5	5	..	5	3	..	..	..
	Overcrowding	27	30	27	..	27	25	..	..	..
WATER SUPPLY.	Nuisances (Dirty premises, etc) ..									
	Insufficient (Stand pipe supply 71 Defective Fittings 18)	89	19	89	71	18	11	6	5	..
	Unsatisfactory	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
DRAINAGE.	Choked	57	57	57	..	57	57	1	..	..
	Untrapped or Defective	32	38	27	..	27	22	..	..	..
	Insufficient	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
SANITARY CONVENIENCES	Structural Defects	22	22	22	..	22	21	..	..	..
	Insufficient (privies to replace with water closets)	124	103	124	47	97	87	10	2	..
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Slaughter Houses Tents, Vans, etc. Offensive Trades Workshops and Workplaces Keeping of Animals (Poultry) Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles Ashpits improperly used Offensive Accumulations Smoke Nuisances Common Lodging Houses	..	84	..	18	18	..	..	..	..	..
	..	15 bi-weekly.	..	20	20	..	..	..	..	..
	..	7	12	7	..	7	7	..	..	..
	..	16	..	3	..	3	3	..	..	..
	..	80	47	32	..	32	28	..	..	..
	..	7	..	7	..	7	3	..	..	..
	..	20	20	20	..	20	14	..	..	..
	..	11	11	11	..	11	11	..	..	..
	..	4	4	4	..	4	4	..	..	..
	..	2	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..
	..	48	..	10	..	10	10	..	..	..
	TOTAL.	753	508	623	227	415	385	29	14	..

TABLE II.

Summary of Work Effected for Year 1925.

		After inform- al Notice	After Statu- Notice.	TOTAL.
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.				
(Total "Privy conversions" 103)	...			
Privies only abolished	...	5		5
Privy Ashpits abolished	...	76	2	78
Privy Ashpits roofed or repaired	...	19		19
Pail Closets abolished	...	20		20
Water Closets provided	...	104	2	106
Water Closets repaired	...	3		3
Sanitary Bins provided	...	117		117
Sanitary Bins renewed	...			
Ashpits replaced by Bins	...	12		12
DRAINAGE.				
New Drains constructed	...	48		48
Drains repaired or re-constructed	...	16		16
Additional Gullies provided	...	5		5
Old Gullies replaced	...	19		19
Scullery Sinks provided	...	4		4
Scullery Waste-pipes repaired & trapped	...	5		5
Yards repaired or reconstructed	..	3		3
WATER SUPPLY.				
New Services provided	... 87.	No. of Houses affected		... 110

Total length
360 yds.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

Cases detected ... 1.

Particulars.—Pollution of boundary stream "Meggies Burn" by discharge from sewer of adjoining local Authority (Seaton Delaval U.D.C). To be subject of Inquiry by Ministry of Health Inspector.

TABLE III.

Borough of Blyth.

HOUSING ACTS.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

(Tabular Statement as required by Article V).

Year 1925.

Inspectors—Mr. R. G. Redpath. Mr. I. O. Williams.				Total.
1.—Number of dwelling houses inspected (Detailed Inspections)				84
2.—Number considered "unfit for habitation"				Nil
'Not in all respects reasonably fit'				84
3.—Complaints as to "unfitness" by—				
(a) Householders				Nil
(b) Parish Councils				Nil
Closing Orders—				
5.—No. of "representations to L.A."				Nil
6.—No. of Orders made				Nil
7.—No. determined after repair				Nil
Number of houses made fit for habitation—				
8.—(a) After "Informal Notice"				81
9.—(b) After Notice under Section 28				Nil
10.—(c) After Closing Order made				Nil
11.—(d) By L.A. in default of owner				Nil
Number of houses closed voluntarily—				
12.—(a) After notice under Section 28				1
13.—(b) Without Notice				1
Number of houses demolished				
14.—(a) Under demolition orders				Nil
15.—(b) Voluntarily by owners				1
General character of defects—				
(1) As regards 71 Colliery houses: Defective Roofs, Spouts, Interior Plaster, etc. Defective Privy Middens. Insufficient Paving and Drainage and unmade Roadway. Lack of Scullery Room, Food stores, and Wash houses. 'Standpipe' water supply. All remedied				
(2) Others:—Defective Roofs, Floors, etc., Defective Privy Middens and outhouses in one block of 7; crowded yard space (yards subsequently re-arranged) and no Wash houses, (Wash houses subsequently provided).				
Housing Act, 1890.				
(a) No. of 'Representations' as to Obstructive Buildings				Nil
(b) No. of such buildings demolished				Nil
(c) Representations as to Unhealthy areas				Nil

(B) Prevention of Infectious Disease.

64 cases have been removed to hospital.
 150 houses and clothing disinfected.
 356 houses supplied with disinfectant and
 152 visits of investigation made.

Special care has been paid to disinfection after Smallpox and following up of contacts; while Chicken Pox cases are followed up as to recovery, in order to intercept possible Small Pox.

(C) Refuse removal.

This is done by the Council. employing direct labour, and is under my supervision assisted by a foreman over the night scavengers.

Regular Staff employed.			Vehicles used.		
Night Motor Drivers	...	3	1 ton Ford open Motor Lorries		3
Night Carters	...	12	Ordinary open Carts with loose tarpaulins	...	15
Night Labourers	...	19	(capacity 18 to 20 cwts.)		
Day Carters	...	4	Special closed Wagon	...	1
Day Labourers	...	4	Metal "Tumbler" Carts for wet refuse (closed)	...	2
Total	...	42	Horses	...	16
Foreman		1			

Privy middens are cleared during the night at an average of 10 days interval.

Pail closets, dust bins, and trade refuse cleared during day time twice per week.

Disposal.

Part at 3 disused brickyard 'tips,' two of which are $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant from the centre of the town, the other (for dry ashes) $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant (with brick kiln furnaces for light trade refuse, mattresses, etc.).

Part led to agricultural land and one 'filling up' tip on land.

Total Disposal to tips and brick kiln during the year 16,841 loads. To agricultural land 14,029 loads.

The system, though not modern, works well. It is however, expensive, the amount of refuse dealt with being heavy for a population of 34,000.

Total houses in the Borough	...	7,386
Population (estimated)	...	34,070
Amount of refuse removed during the year	...	30,870 loads.
Approximate weight (at an average of 19 cwts. per load)	...	29,326 tons.
Quantity per house	...	4.17 loads or 3 tons 19 cwts.
Total cost of scavenging (including Stable charges, etc.)	...	£,9457
Cost per ton	...	6s. 5.3d.
Cost per house	...	£1 4s. 8d.

(D) Meat Regulations 1924.

The work of Meat Inspection is regularly carried out, an effort being made to see all carcasses of animals slaughtered.

The numbers examined and results are set out in Table IV. together with an analysis of diseases found, most of which were slight or not extensive, the butchers possibly exercising greater care in their choice in apprehension of condemnation.

With one or two exceptions the butchers have whole heartedly co-operated with the officials and willingly surrender unsound meat for destruction.

TABLE IV.

Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

**Total amounts of Meat, etc. found to be unfit for human food
and destroyed.**

Year 1925.

Unsound Food.	Weight.	Surrendered.	Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings.
1. Beef (Home killed)	Stones	54½	..	...
2. " (Imported)	"	14	...	...
3. Mutton (Home-killed)	"	½	...	...
4. " (Imported)	"		...	...
5. Pork	"	51	...	...
6. Fruit	lbs.	45	...	...
7. Canned Goods	tins.	286 (Corned Beef 36) (Tomatoes 250)	...	...

**NUMBER OF DISEASED CARCASSES and ANALYSIS OF
DISEASES FOUND.**

(1) Number of Diseased Carcasses.

Carcasses (Fresh)	No Examined	No Sound.	No. Diseased.		Total Diseased.	per cent Diseased.
			Slightly.	Extensively.		
Beef	486	436	48	2	50	10·2%
Pork	718	672	42	4	46	6·4%
Mutton	696	690	6	—	6	·8%

(2) ANALYSIS OF DISEASES FOUND.

Bovines.

Diseases	No.	Meat and Organs destroyed	No.	Weight
No with		With		
Tuberculosis (advanced)	Nil	Tuberculosis		
		Meat — (Heads) ...	2	2½ st/s.
Tuberculosis (not advanced)		Organs only—Lungs ...	23	
		— Livers ...	3	
Cows and Heifers	15	— Hearts ...	2	13 "
		— Intestines, etc....	1	
Other Bovines	8	With other Diseases —		
	23	Meat — Carcasses		
Other Diseases	...	Sepsis (Traumatic)	1	23 "
	27	Organs only — Livers, with		
		Flukes	20	
		Livers, Abscesses...	3	16 "
		" Bacillary		
		Necrosis...	2	
		Udders, Actinomycosis	1	

PIGS.

Diseases.	No	Meat and Organs destroyed.	No.	Weight
No. with Tuberculosis (advanced)	2	With Tuberculosis		
		Meat - Carcases	2	14 stones
		Heads	13	8 "
„ (not advanced)	26	Organs—Lungs Livers,		
	28	Intestines, etc ...	13	2 "
Other Diseases	...			
	18	With other Diseases—		
		Meat - Carcases		
		Septic Metritis 1	2	26 "
		Dropsical. Degen		
		Liver 1...		
		Organs - Lungs, Pneumonia	13	3 "
		Livers, Cirrhosis...	2	
		Heart etc , Degen- eration...	1	
SHEEP				
No. diseased (Pneumonia ...	6	Lungs	6	$\frac{3}{4}$ "
Tumours				
Cysts)				

Total Weight destroyed...108 stones.

Imported Beef with Tubercular Caries of Sternum...Forequarters 1 : 14 stones

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

R. G. REDPATH,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

